

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add claims 25-31 as follows:

25. (New) A system, comprising:

at least one server network to communicate data via a first Input/Output (I/O) architecture;

at least two Virtual Network Interface Cards (VNICs) to communicate the data via the first I/O architecture;

at least two bridging devices to convert packets useable in the first I/O architecture to packets useable in a second I/O architecture utilized by a client network, wherein no more than one of the at least two bridging devices transfers the data with any one of the at least two VNICs, and the at least two bridging devices transfer the data with the client network; and

at least one intermediate driver to bind to the at least one server network and to the at least two VNICs, wherein the at least one intermediate driver provides a fail-over function to maintain a connection between the server network and the client network.

26. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the first I/O architecture is an Infiniband architecture.

27. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the second I/O architecture is an Ethernet architecture.

28. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the at least one intermediate driver provides at least one of: Internet Protocol Security (IPSec), and Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) protocol.

29. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the at least one intermediate driver binds to the at least one server network via at least one miniport instance.

30. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein when an error occurs during data transfer between the one of the at least two bridging devices and the switching device, an error message is sent to one of the at least two VNICs corresponding to the one of the at least two bridging devices having the error.

31. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the fail-over function terminates a connection between the one of the at least two bridging devices having the error and the one of the at least two VNICs corresponding to the one of the at least two bridging devices having the error, and initiates a connection between an alternative one of the at least two bridging devices and an alternative one of the at least two VNICs.

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